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FBIS 153

CAIRO: U.S. RECONNAISSANCE PLANES OVERFLY EGYPT

M132009 CAIRO DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC 2201 GMT 13 OCT 73 M

(COMMUNIQUE NO. 34 ISSUED BY THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND)

(TEXT) AT 1305, TWO ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE PLANES PENETRATED OUR AIRSPACE FROM NORTH OF PORT SAID AND CONTINUED ON UNTIL WAJ' HAMMADI, WHEN THEY TURNED NORTH TOWARD CAIRO AND EAST TO THE SINAI AREA IN THE DIRECTION OF LEBANON AND SYRIA. THEY THEN TURNED NORTHWEST TOWARD THE MEDITERRANEAN.

THIS FLIGHT OVER THE EGYPTIAN TERRITORIES LASTED 25 MINUTES. THE TWO PLANES WERE FLYING AT AN ALTITUDE OF 15 KMS AND AT A SPEED OF MACH 3.

THESE PLANES ARE OF THE U.S. SR71A TYPE. IT IS KNOWN THAT THIS TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IS OWNED ONLY BY THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT AN AIRCRAFT OF THIS TYPE HAS PENETRATED OUR AIRSPACE.

13 OCT 2229Z PK/HH